

TROY  
7150 Route 1  
Elkridge vicinity  
Howard County  
Maryland

HABS MD-1210  
*MD-1210*

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TROY  
(Troy Hill Farm)

HABS NO. MD-1210

Location: Troy is located at the top of a ridge and is reached via a long, winding dirt road off Rt. 176, just southeast of the intersection with Interstate 95, in Howard County. The address has recently been designated as: 6500 Mansion Lane, Elkridge, Maryland.

Owner: Howard County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Present Use: Stabilized and secured after having suffered a devastating fire that has left only the stone walls standing, the house is currently the subject of intensive study and planning in preparation for its restoration. The current plan is for adaptive re-use of the house as the centerpiece for a new regional park to be developed on the surrounding property.

Significance: Troy is an example of a vernacular stone house of somewhat refined quality typical of those built by prosperous Howard County farmers during the early to mid-nineteenth century. The stone work is noteworthy as an effort to use rubble to create decorative quoining and jack-arched window heads with keystones. The house was erected by Vincent Baily ca.1820 on the former "dwelling plantation" of Colonel Thomas Dorsey. The Dorseys were among this region's founding families and its largest landholders; at one time they owned about one-third of the area that was to form Howard County from part of Anne Arundel County, in 1851. Once believed to be the oldest standing house in Howard County, and a former Dorsey homestead, citizens lobbied to save Troy during the early 1970s, following the property's condemnation for a highway right-of-way.

Although this house was never inhabited by the Dorsey family, as once claimed, it is of interest as one of the oldest extant structures in an area that was the scene of the region's earliest major development. Located on the Patapsco River, Elk Ridge Landing (later the town of Elkridge), was an important port, established prior to the founding of Baltimore in 1729. The port facilitated the transport of tobacco grown on the nearby plantations of the Dorsey, Ridgely, and Carroll families, as well as the importation of goods. By extension, the nearby hamlet of Waterloo that lay adjacent to Troy, also flourished. It sat at the crossroads of the Northern and Southern Post Road (Washington Turnpike) and the road between Annapolis and Frederick. The well-known Waterloo Inn catered to trade along the "rolling roads" from the port at Elk Ridge. Although now a sleepy section of the county, it was a hotbed of activity during the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth century. Troy was erected during a period of transition from tobacco cultivation to smaller scale grain farming. Grain production and milling eventually came to define Howard County as a distinctive and prosperous area, and it was set-off from Anne Arundel County. While the break-up of the old culture, as well as the coming of the B&O railroad, served to diminish the importance of this area, Troy is a reminder of its former significance.

Historian: Catherine C. Lavoie.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The stone house at Troy was likely erected during the late 1820s, but could have been built any time between 1808 and 1828. In July 1808, Vincent Baily and Joseph Clemson purchased the 652 acre tract known formerly as the dwelling plantation of Col. Thomas Dorsey from his widow, Elizabeth. It is fairly certain that the former Dorsey dwelling, a wood frame structure, according to the federal direct tax of 1798, was still standing. In 1811, Clemson sold his interest in the property to George Baily, of the city of Baltimore. Vincent Baily resided at Troy, and at some point, replaced the Dorsey house with the current one, also building other farm structures. By 1828, default forced the sale of Vincent Baily's farm, which was purchased in its entirety by silent partner, George Baily. The house and other buildings were described in the February 1829 notice of the Chancery Sale as "new."

2. Architect, builder: Troy's residence was built for Vincent Baily; the actual builder is not known.

3. Owners: Reference is to the Land Records of Howard County, located at a facility in Columbia, Maryland, for deeds recorded since 1850. Deeds recorded before that time are available at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis. In a few cases, as noted, deeds and/or deed references were made available as exhibits within equity proceedings. This chain-of-title extends from the present, back to 1808, when the property was purchased by the builder of the current house from the original land grant holders, the Dorsey family. Also included are equity proceedings and references to plats and maps that indicate residence at Troy. Note: the information provided is an abstract of the original and contains much of the same wording, although often abbreviated, unless appearing in direct quotation marks or as blocked quotes.

1971 Deed 577/414, 21 September 1971  
State Highway Administration, State of Maryland  
to Howard County, Maryland

52.31 acres; for project #307-9-723 (Interstate Route 95—Patapsco River to Maryland Route 175), shown on plat #40390.

1958 Tenants, 1958 to 1968, Donald and Alice Doll, and family

1958 Deed 325/160, 16 December 1958  
Pedro A. & Katherine N. De Valle  
to State of Maryland, State Roads Commission

Parcel #1: 148 acres, 2 roods, and 2 square perches; being the same as conveyed from John T. & Frances K. Neubauer, Deed 173/156.

Parcel #2: 25 acres (excepting 1.711 acres to Milton & Emily Baugher, 1947; and 5 acres to Herbert & Emma Nickel, 1957); being the same as conveyed from Rosalie Annie

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 3)

Wright, Deed 188/559.

Parcel #3: .623 acre, being the same as conveyed from Milton Baugher, Deed 197/451.

PARCEL #1 (the current Troy Hill Farm property, including the stone house)

1942 Deed 173/156, 16 January 1942  
John T. & Frances K. Neubauer  
to Pedro A. & Katharine M. de Valle

220 acres, being the same as conveyed from Daniel M. Murray, Jr., unmarried, and described in deed 141/175

1931 Deed 141/175, 16 July 1931  
Daniel M. Murray, Jr.  
to John T. & Frances K. Neubauer

148 acres, 2 roods and 2 square perches in the first election district of Howard County; being the same property as was conveyed by Edward L. Ward, J. Purdon Wright, & Henry J. Broening, trustees to John T. Neubauer and Joseph P. Neubauer,

1931 Deed 141/470, 15 July 1931  
John T. & Frances K. Neubauer and Joseph P. Neubauer, unmarried  
to Daniel M. Murray, Jr.  
148+ acres

1931 Deed 141/468 Deed, 14 July 1931  
Edward L. Ward, J. Purdon Wright, & Henry J. Broening, trustees  
to John T. Neubauer and Joseph P. Neubauer

220 acres; whereas by decree of Circuit Court of Baltimore City, 24 February 1931, in the case of Chester A. Dinsmore et al, complainants and Elsie R. Knisley et al, defendants, trustees were appointed to sell the real estate at public auction, held 21 April 1931. The same was sold to the above named grantees for \$5,500.

1931 Equity Proceedings, Book 4/326, file # 3140, 1930  
In the case of Chester A. & Alvin L. Dinsmore, defendants and James Clark, Atty, plaintiff; also Book 4/332, file # 3152, in the case of Chester A. Dinsmore, plaintiff, and Elsie R. Knisley, defendants.

According to the court proceedings, Annie B. Shellenberger, a widow, died intestate on 22 March 1930, possessed of valuable real estate including a house and various lots in Baltimore City, and the Troy Hill Farm in Howard County. Mrs. Shellenberger died without issue, pre-deceased by her husband; having no children or grandchildren to pass her property on to, her heirs-at-law were her only surviving sibling, and numerous nieces and nephews, the children of her deceased brothers and sisters. Due to the great number

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 4)

of heirs, it was determined that the property be sold by trustee and the proceeds divided.

*The Ellicott City Times*, 16 April 1931; Trustee's Sale of Valuable Farm, formerly occupied by Annie B. Shellenberger, deceased; being 148 acres, 2 roods, and 2 square perches. According to the advertisement:

This property lies north of the Washington Boulevard, about a mile and a half west of Elkridge and about three quarters of a mile off and north of the Washington Boulevard on a road used by this property and others in common. All that piece or parcel of land lying situated and being in Howard County, Maryland, being a part of the land which by deed dated January 9, 1855 and recorded in Liber W.H.W. no. 15 fol. 40, 220 acres (excepting 59 acres conveyed by Nicholas A. Pfeiffer and wife to John W. Brown 81/121; and 11-3/4 acres conveyed by Mary Pfeiffer et al to George J. Kraft 58/606); the land to be sold containing 148 acres, 2 roods and 2 square perches. Improvements consist of a large two and one-half story, Colonial Stone Mansion, in fine condition inside and out, situated on an eminence, with extensive view. Bank bam 32 ft. by 65 feet, x 16 ft. to square, in fine condition. Tenant house, corn, implement, wagon, and poultry houses and an orchard.

- 1913 Deed 96/307, 31 December 1913  
Nicholas Albert Pfeiffer/Heirs of Nicholas Adam Pfeiffer  
to Annie B. Shellenberger  
[Reference to this deed appears in the above mentioned equity proceedings]
- 1883 Trustees Report of Sale (Equity #840) held on the premises, 7 July 1883  
The property, 220 acres with improvements, was sold to the highest bidders, Mary, George H., Charles W., Edward, and Henry Pfeiffer, (heirs of Nicholas Adam Pfeiffer) for \$40 per acre, for a total of \$9,020.00.
- 1882 Equity Proceedings, File #840, 1882-1883; in the case of Mary Pfeiffer, et. al. vs. John A. Pfeiffer, et. al.

Nicholas Pfeiffer died 28 October 1872, leaving a wife, Mary, and seven minor children. His family continued to reside at "Troy Hill Farm" and to work the land. A decade later, many of the children had reached maturity (the eldest now being twenty-eight years of age, and the youngest, twelve years) and it was determined that the property was not conducive to distribution and that it should therefore be sold.

*The Baltimore Sun*, 27 June 1883: "Trustee's Sale: 'Troy Hill Farm' in Howard County, Maryland near Dorsey's Station on the Washington Branch of the Railroad . . . property of the late Nicholas C. Pfeiffer (no description of the improvements given). A similar advertisement in the *Ellicott City Times* mentioned that the "Troy Hill Farm" would be auctioned off "at the Mansion House on the premises" on Saturday 7 July 1883.

As appeared in a second advertisement (after the first auction failed to yield a buyer) in the *Ellicott City Times*, 19 July 1883: "This farm is well watered, and 25 acres of it is in woodlands, 25 in corn, about 30 acres in other grains; 2-1/2 acres in vineyard, 2 acres in small fruit and over 1,000 fruit . . . (it is improved by) a large stone house, a large stone

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 5)

barn, a good corn house, and other necessary outbuildings . . . and small tenant house.”

- 1878 Hopkins Atlas of 1878 shows “Res. (residence) N.A. Pfeiffer Heirs, 225 acres” on this location, off the Washington Turnpike in the community of “Waterloo” near Elkridge Landing.”
- 1865 Indenture, Release of Mortgage, 24/120, 29 April 1865 (copy at Howard County Historical Society, Deeds & Mortgages, Box 20, folder 975, #1473)  
William C. Connie & Mary Ann, his wife, of the City of Baltimore  
to Nicholas A. Pfeiffer, City of Baltimore

Whereas Rudolph H. Evans by bond dated 19 May 1860 (Deed 20/612) did contract and agree to convey to certain Nicholas Christopher, that parcel of land in Howard County containing 220 acres, upon payment of promissory note for \$2,650.00. And whereas the above named Nicholas Pfeiffer became entitled to the equitable interest of Nicholas Christopher in said land under a deed from George M. Lamb and wife, dated 18 July 1864 (Deed 23/266). And whereas said Nicholas Pfeiffer has paid the above mentioned promissory note, Connie releases all claim to the above mentioned parcel.

- 1864 Deed, appearing as Exhibit A, of Equity case #840, 18 July 1864  
George M. Lamb and Ann Woodward Lamb, his wife, (formerly) of Howard County, now (residing) in the city of Baltimore  
to Nicholas A. Pfeiffer, of the said City of Baltimore

For the sum of \$9,350.00, all that tract, piece or parcel of land situated and lying in Howard County, containing 220 acres described in a deed from Lewis H. Robinson, Trustee, Nicholas Christopher & Eliza M., his wife, to Ann Woodward Lamb, 20 August 1862, recorded in WHW 22/125. Subject now to a mortgage from Rudolph H. Evans to John Dabbs, dated 10 January 1855, WHW 15/407, for \$4,000.00.

- 1862 Deed 22/125, 20 August 1862 (mentioned in deed from Lamb to Pfeiffer, Ex. A, case #840)  
Lewis H. Robinson, Trustee, Nicholas Christopher & Eliza M., his wife  
to Ann Woodward Lamb
- 1862 Deed 21/600, 13 January 1862  
Nicholas Christopher, and wife  
to Louis Robinson  
220 acres

ca. 1860 unknown Deed, from Rudolph Evans to Nicholas Christopher, between 1855-1862.  
Mentioned in Indenture, Release of Mortgage, 24/120, 29 April 1865: Whereas Rudolph H. Evans by bond dated 19 May 1860 (20/612) did contract and agree to convey to certain Nicholas Christopher, that parcel of land in Howard County containing 220 acres, upon payment of promissory note for \$2,650.00.

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 6)

- 1855 Indenture 15/401, 9 January 1855  
Thomas G. Canby, and Esther, his wife, of Baltimore City  
to Rudolph H. Evans of Howard County

655 acres; the "dwelling plantation formerly of Thomas Dorsey" known as "Troy," "Troy Resurveyed," and "Addition to Troy," being the same tract conveyed to George Bailey by John H.B. Latrobe and John Lloyds, trustees, 14/461; and 91+ acres to Bailey from Richard Inglehart, Sheriff, 14/561.

- 1849 Indenture 9/69, 1 May 1849  
George Bailey, of the City of Baltimore, and Elizabeth, his wife  
To Thomas Canby, of the same city

652 acres and 91-1/4 acres; a tract being in the Howard District of Anne Arundel County, the dwelling plantation of Thomas Dorsey, deceased, and certain lands contiguous to it called "Troy," "Troy Resurveyed," and "Addition to Troy."

- 1829 Indenture 14/461, 4 June 1829  
John H.B. Latrobe and John I. Lloyd  
to George Baily, of the City of Baltimore

Whereas by a decree of the High Court of Chancery of the said State bearing the date 29 December 1828, the above named grantees were appointed trustees in a suit then pending in which Joseph Baily, Jesse Mercer, and Johns Hopkins and Mahlon Hopkins were complainants and George Baily, Vincent Baily, and Joseph Clemson were defendants. The trustees were authorized to sell and dispose of the property. On 18 March 1829, the property was sold to George Baily for the sum of \$8,215.20.

The property was described as "being the same tract or parcel of land that was conveyed to Joseph Clemson and Vincent Baily by Elizabeth Dorsey by Indenture" on 13 July 1808 and recorded along the land records of Anne Arundel County (of which this area was then a part) in Liber NH No. 15 folio 42. It being "The dwelling plantation formerly of Thomas Dorsey deceased on a part thereof and certain lands contiguous thereto the same comprising a part of the Original Tract called 'Troy,' part of the 'Resurvey called Troy,' and part of the 'Addition to Troy,' containing Six Hundred and Fifty-Two acres of land be the same more or less together with all and singular the buildings and improvement thereon erected. . ."

- 1828 Chancery Court of Maryland, Anne Arundel County, file #6363, filed 21 November 1828;  
in the case of George Baily vs. Vincent Baily

Bill of Complaint: That in the year 1811 by deed bearing the date 4 May 1811 . . . your orator (George Baily) purchased from Joseph Clemson, his undivided moiety of a tract of land which said Clemson held as a tenant in common with Vincent Baily and which is particularly described in said indenture (exhibit A). That your orator having thus acquired an interest in and to the said property advanced to the use thereof divers sums of money

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 7)

from time to time for the purpose of erecting buildings thereupon and furnishing stock and farming utensils required to furnish as your orator and the said Vincent Baily for the amount thus advanced by your orator as "Vincent Baily & Company" in account with George Baily The company therein being your orator, all the monies advanced for the use of the farm over and above your orators proportion were charged to "Vincent Baily & company" That the said Vincent being so indebted to your orator for his proportion of the amount advanced by your orator to the use of the joint interest of your orator and the said Vincent, has often by your orator requested to be paid to him the same, but hath refused to pay his proportion of the said balance or any part thereof. All which actings and doings are contrary to equity and good conscience and tend to the manifest wrong and injury of your orator in the premises, as much as your orator is remediless and cannot have relief, save in a court of equity, that the said Vincent Baily may be made a defendant hereto and may in answer make to all the matters and thing set forth as of he were thereto specially interrogated. Was exhibit A not signed by him? And a correct statement of the amount due for the Erection of Buildings and the purchase of stock and utensils for the said farm? May it please your honor to grant a supena to the said Vincent Baily commanding him by a certain day and under certain pain therein to appear before your honor and make answer as to the premise. (Signed) John M.B. Latrobe

- 1828 Chancery Court of Maryland, Anne Arundel County, Case #9915, filed 12 November 1828  
Jesse Mercer, Joseph Baily, John Hopkins & Mahlon Hopkins (Hopkins Bros, merchants)  
vs. Vincent Baily, Joseph Clemson, and George Baily

Bill of Complaint: That certain Joseph Clemson and Vincent Baily being indebted to your orator Joseph Baily et al in the sum of \$2,828.60, and for \$2980.27 gave their joint bond on 8 August 1808 in a mortgage for the purpose of securing payment of the said bonds, the tract of land mentioned. Also, by indenture date 4 May 1811, (Joseph Clemson) conveyed to a certain George Baily all his right, title, and interest in the land. Default was made in the payment thereof, and the whole of principle sum are now due, one-half part to complainants through mortgage. Due to default, the property is to be sold and the proceeds applied to the debt. John H.B. Latrobe & John I. Lloyd were appointed trustees to sell the property.

"Parcel of land situated and lying and being in Anne Arundel County aforesaid and which is now in the occupancy of the said Vincent Baily that is to say the late dwelling & plantation of Thomas Dorsey deceased or a part thereof and certain lands contiguous to the same comprehending part of the original tract called 'Troy,' part of 'The Resurvey of Troy,' and part of the tract called the 'Addition to Troy,' 652 acres, being the same property conveyed by deed dated 13 July 1808 by Elizabeth Dorsey of Baltimore County to the Joseph Clemson and aforesaid Vincent Baily NH 15/42 - 45, together with all and singular the buildings and improvements"

Trustee's report of Sale: the trustee herein named did set up and espoused the said property to public sale, by auction, on the premises, on Wednesday 18 March 1829, several bidders appearing, George Baily became the highest bidder for, and the purchaser



of, the said property at \$12.60 per acre, amounting to the sum of \$8,215.20.

1811 Indenture, xx/575, 15 April 1811

Archibald Dorsey, of Anne Arundel County in the State of Maryland, Physician to George Baily of the City of Baltimore, in Baltimore County and State aforesaid, Druggist and Vincent Baily of Anne Arundel County aforesaid, Farmer

“In consideration of the sum of Nine hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents to the said Archibald Dorsey in hands well and entirely paid by the said George Baily and Vincent Baily at or before the sealing and delivery of these, Archibald Dorsey doth hereby acknowledge and confess himself to be fully satisfied contented and paid, doth release all that part of a tract of land situate lying and being in Anne Arundel County aforesaid called and known by the name of ‘Herbert’s Care,’ beginning of a tract of land called ‘Troy’ and also the beginning of the ‘Isle of Ely’ and known by the name of the seven boundaries then with, containing ninety one acts and one quarter of an acre of land.”

1808 Indenture/Mortgage (copy included in Chancery Case #9915), 8 August 1808  
Joseph Clemson & Vincent Baily of Anne Arundel County, farmers  
to Jesse Mercer of Chester County, PA and Joseph Baily of New Castle County, DE

In the amount of \$5,950.54 for “The late dwelling plantation of Thomas Dorsey, deceased on a part of the original tract called Troy, Resurvey of Troy, and Addition to Troy, 652 acres.”

1808 Indenture xx/570, 13 July 1808

Elizabeth Dorsey, “Gentlewoman” of Baltimore County  
to Joseph Clemson and Vincent Baily both of Anne Arundel County, Farmers

“reciting that Thomas Dorsey Esquire formerly of Anne Arundel County, deceased was in his life time and at the time of his death seized in fee and possessed of the lands and premises therein and herein after described, did by his last will and testament bearing date on or about the 14 March 1790, bequeath unto his wife, her heirs, all his estate. Elizabeth Dorsey did grant unto the said Joseph Clemson and Vincent Baily, all that lot, tract, piece or parcel of land situated lying and being in Anne Arundel County aforesaid that is to day the dwelling plantation of the aforesaid Thomas Dorsey deceased or a part thereof and certain lands contiguous thereto the same comprising a part of the original tract called ‘Troy,’ part of the ‘Resurvey called Troy,’ and part of the tract called ‘The addition to Troy,’ to contain 652 acres of land (being referred to in IG 7/239 and NH 15/42). Now this Indenture made this fourth day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and eleven Between the above named Joseph Clemson now of Baltimore County in the State of Maryland of the one part and George Baily of the City of Baltimore in the county last aforesaid Druggist of the other part.”

Within the same deed, as it was recorded, Joseph Clemson conveys his one-half interest in the above named tract to George Baily. As it is stated, “Witnesseth that the said Joseph Clemson for and in consideration of the sum of twelve hundred dollars, paid by the said

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 9)

George Baily, is hereby acknowledged hath granted unto the said George Baily, one undivided moiety or half part of and in all that lot, tract and premises within described and aforesaid conveyed or mentioned to be conveyed by the within named Elizabeth Dorsey to the aforesaid Joseph Clemson and Vincent Baily, as tenants in common, an undivided moiety or half part of all and singular the building and improvements upon the same landed erected, made or being a moiety or half part (subject to deed of mortgage 1808 executed by the said Joseph Clemson and Vincent Baily. Also personally appears Esther Clemson the wife of the said Joseph Clemson and acknowledges that she doth relinquish and release all her right title and claim of dower or thirds of and in the land and premises mentioned to be conveyed by the foregoing deed to the therein named George Baily, recorded 5 June 1811.

- 1808 (Untitled) Plat Map of Dorsey Property, surveyed by Joseph Cord, Surveyor of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1808 (property of the Howard County Historical Society). The plat depicts five contiguous parcels, and gives acreage and names attached. There are two contiguous parcels in the hands of "Doctr Dorsey," presumably Dr. Archibald Dorsey, eldest son of Thomas and Elizabeth Dorsey (other parcels are designated for Theodore Dorsey and Nicholas Dorsey). Of Archibald's holdings are a 652 acre parcel and a 91-1/4 acre parcel. The former of which is the only one depicted with the configuration of a house on it, presumably the "dwelling" of Thomas Dorsey and family.
- 1793 Indenture 3/200 Also reciting that Elisabeth Dorsey, the widow of Thomas Dorsey, then of Anne Arundel County did by Indenture dated 10 May 1793, did Grant unto Samuel Norwood all those several tracts or parcels of lands; to wit, The dwelling plantation whereon said Thomas Dorsey resided with all the contiguous lands situated on Elkridge in Anne Arundel County aforesaid containing about 1,100 acres, recorded in deed 3/197. Samuel Norwood of Baltimore (According to chain-of title, Edward Norwood was a son-in-law (husband of their daughter, Mary) to whom Thomas Dorsey, then greatly indebted, had mortgaged his property to see NH5/146. This is the release of that mtg. NH6/218.
- 1790 Will of Colonel Thomas Dorsey  
"As it has pleased God, heretofore, to bestow on me a liberal fortune, which I have lately lost by my indiscretion and ill-judged confidence, and as the small remnant that can be saved out of the wreck of my fortune cannot be placed in the hand of any person more truly prudent and frugal than my beloved wife, who as she divides her affection among her children, will, I have no doubt, distribute equally among them anything that can be saved. I give her, after my jest debts are paid, all my estate and make her sole executrix."<sup>1</sup>

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: The house was built for Vincent Baily, although the actual builder is not known. It is likely that the stone was taken from the larger site, since stone is indigenous to this region. This particular stone has an unusually high iron content, made apparent

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<sup>1</sup> J. D. Warfield, *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties A Genealogical & Biographical Review of Wills, Deeds, and Church Records*. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1967, 344.

by its orange tones.

5. Original plans and construction: The house was constructed in the typical two-and-a-half story, two-room-deep, Georgian-style, center hall plan. The front is somewhat austere. It is likely that it had a simple portico over the door to the center of the (south) front facade. Archeological investigations recently conducted in the area under the existing porch indicate the location of piers that suggest a shallow portico extended to cover the three bays of the facade, but did not run the entire length.<sup>2</sup> Photographs indicate that the windows were six-over-six light sash. The only ornamentation appears to have been in the stone quoining and window lintels. While the window lintels have a keystone element, the doorway does not, suggesting that there may have been a wood frontispiece. If so, it was likely fairly simple as there is no room for sidelights, although there may have been a small transom. Photographs of the house from the 1960s show a rather plain wood frontispiece around the principle entry, as well as wood window surrounds with high, flat lintels. Again, it is unclear whether these were original features or part of the Colonial Revival-era changes. Beyond the stonework, the most decorative element of the exterior was the two interior brick chimneys in both end walls, another indication of an original four-room plan.

The principal first and second stories contained four rooms each, with either a single open room or a room to either side of the stair in the half story. Evidence for a basement kitchen as an original feature of the house is found in the remnants of a former beehive oven to the rear of the northeast basement fireplace. It is likely that the two rooms to either side of the stair hall were connected to each other by a doorway or opening. Photographs from the 1960s indicate that the rooms on the south side, then used as a library and den, were connected by an elliptical arch. It is likely, however, that the arch seen in these photographs was installed as part of the ca. 1940 "restoration" of the house. One reason to believe this is that it has an unpainted wood finish that matches the more modern shelving and paneled walls installed in the southwest library room at that time. Photographs also indicate a simple federal period mantel with a central panel and side pilasters, in the southwest front parlor or library room. This mantel was likely the original and appears to have included an overmantel of paneling or applied molding, and a paneled-door chimney closet to the interior side of the mantel. The more formal parlors to the east side contained mantels of marble (or marbleized slate), a Victorian era upgrade. Doorway (and possibly window) trim was fluted with bull's eye corner block, also a likely Victorian-era change. An elegant stairway, with a rounded, tapered newel post and delicate tapering balusters, ran from the first to the third floors; according to Mrs. Doll, a separate stairway led to the basement level.

While it is likely that the kitchen and dining room that appear in the 1960s were also newly fashioned, the kitchen was originally located in the basement. Although this arrangement is not usual for this region, evidence for this seen in the remnants of the beehive oven to the east side, near the banked, rear elevation of the house.<sup>3</sup> Also, there is no indication, either in written

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<sup>2</sup> Andrew Lee, *National Park Service, Archeological Investigation of Troy, ElkrIDGE, Maryland*, for Howard County Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Spring 2005.

<sup>3</sup> Lee, *Archeological Report, Troy*, Like the basement kitchen, the beehive oven is not generally found in this region, particularly not during this time period and must be considered an outmoded form of baking. It is interesting to speculate that the idea for the oven may have been something that Bailly brought with him from the

descriptions or archeological remains, of a kitchen wing or separate kitchen building on the property. In the section of the basement towards the front of the house is located the opening and stairway to a subterranean root cellar.

6. Alterations and additions: The house underwent “restoration” during the ownership of the De Valle family in the 1940s. The extent of the work is not known. Based only upon photographs from the 1960s, it is likely that this included extensive upgrades and renovations both inside and out. Exterior features added likely included the two-story portico with a flagstone floor at ground level that once ran the length of the front facade. Iron grating to create the illusion of a balcony appear under the window over the front door. A flagstone terrace, similar to that appearing under the front portico, was added to the rear walk-out basement. At the basement level also was added a bay window and a screen-enclosed kitchen entry porch at the northeast corner. Moving to the interior of the house, it is likely that the De Valles added the library bookcases and paneling to the southwest room, and may have added the elliptical archways that appeared between the front and back rooms of the west side of the house and between the center hall and the southeast front room. A treatment of applied molding to resemble paneled walls was used in the first floor rooms and in the basement dining room. Although originally there were fireplaces in each of the four rooms on the first and second stories (as well as in the basement), Alice Doll did not recall fireplaces on the second floor; possibly some or all of them were closed off by that time. Radiator heat was then being used. Among the most elaborated rooms was the basement dining room where moldings, dentil cornice, paneled reveals, wood mantel, chimney closet, bay window, and hardwood flooring were added. The kitchen fireplace was rebuilt and consisted of stone that sat low and ran the length of the wall, and a simple beam as a mantel shelf, with the fireplace opening at one end. All the fireboxes appear to have been rebuilt of light colored firebrick.

A period drawing of a house reported to be Troy depicts it with Gothic-style decorative features, including a porch that ran the length of the front facade. It is unlikely, however, that this was actually an image of Troy. Beyond discrepancies in the scale and a few other features of the house, there is a problem with its origins. According to Mrs. Doll, the drawing was presented to her by an elderly Miss Dorsey who knew only that it was a former Dorsey homestead. Having seen a picture in the newspaper of Troy, then reported to be the former home of Thomas Dorsey, Miss Dorsey assumed the image in her family collection to be that of Troy. However, because this house was never owned by the Dorsey family, it is unlikely that an image of it would have been in her possession. Numerous Dorsey homes were erected in Howard County, making it very possible that this image is of another house, perhaps even one that no longer exists. Nonetheless, there is a chance that Troy was once graced with Gothic detailing. It would appear that Victorian-era upgrades were made to the interior of the house, including new (marble) mantels in the east side parlors and possibly new doorway surrounds that included bull’s eye corner blocks.

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Delaware Valley, where it was a common eighteenth century feature, and where he appears to have had previous connections, based on those who invest early on in the Troy farm.

B. Historical Context:

The stone house at “Troy,” later known as “Troy Hill Farm,” was once thought to be the oldest standing structure in Howard County, built as early as 1695 on a 753 acre tract patented to the “Honorable” John Dorsey in that year. John Dorsey settled his family on the “Ridge of Elks at Waterloo” sometime before 1700.<sup>4</sup> Dorsey acquired other estates in Maryland, although it is suggested that the plantation at Troy was his primary residence. According to his will at the time of his death, John Dorsey offered to his wife, Plesance, her choice of South River Plantation or Troy, his “dwelling place on Elk Ridge;” she chose the latter.<sup>5</sup> The remainder of his lands passed to his son Caleb and the children of his deceased son, Edward. Once Plesance remarried in 1722, the Troy property passed to her grandson Basil, the son of Caleb. About 1750, Caleb Dorsey expanded the family’s wealth and influence in this region through the establishment of the Elkridge Furnace, producing pig iron from its river front location near Troy. Basil Dorsey added to the Troy plantation, which eventually constituted over 1,000 acres. Of course, Troy was only one of the original land grants made to the Dorsey family around the turn of the eighteenth century. In 1688, Edward Dorsey received “Major’s Choice,” and John Dorsey, “Dorsey’s Adventure.” Other land acquisitions included “Long Reach” and “Dorsey’s Search,” eventually made the Dorsey family one of the county’s largest landowners. Rivaling only the Carrolls and the Ridgleys, the Dorseys owned about one-third of what eventually was set off from Anne Arundel County as Howard County, in 1851.<sup>6</sup> These three prominent families were among those who established tobacco plantations in this region.

Troy was part of an agricultural community known as “Waterloo,” that was centered at the crossroads of the Northern and Southern Post Road, also known as the Washington Turnpike, and the Annapolis to Frederick Road. The Waterloo Inn was well known in its day, catering to the trade traffic in this region, and was a popular local gathering spot. Just to the east of Waterloo and the “Troy,” plantation, at the end of the Washington Turnpike, was located Elk Ridge Landing (later, simply Elkridge). As the name suggested, the small hamlet featured a landing along the Patapsco River. Since the early eighteenth century, Elk Ridge Landing was an important port for the tobacco market. It was established at a time when this region was still part of Anne Arundel County, and Baltimore City was yet to be established. Thus, Elk Ridge Landing commanded most of the trade traffic. The town had already become a transport area for goods by the time it was legally established in 1734. Goods traveled from abroad as well as from other areas of the mid-Atlantic seaboard, following a route from southeastern Pennsylvania, through New Castle, Delaware, Elk Ridge, and on to Patapsco and later, Baltimore. With few roads in the county at that time, boat landings such as the one in Elkridge were an important vehicle through which local planters

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<sup>4</sup> Harry Wright Newman, *Anne Arundel Gentry*, vol. 2 (Annapolis: H.W. Wright, 1970-79), 2:7-10; as cited in Celia Holland, *Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland*, (Privately printed, 1987), 10.

<sup>5</sup> Holland, 10.

<sup>6</sup> What is now Howard County was originally designated as part of Anne Arundel County in 1650. In 1659, a portion of this area became part of Baltimore County, but was reclaimed by Anne Arundel County in 1727. The creation of Howard County was first introduced in 1838, when it was suggested that a portion of Anne Arundel be set as an administrative district named for Revolutionary War hero and Maryland’s fifth governor, Col. John Eger Howard. The “Howard District” of Anne Arundel County officially became a separate county in 1851.

got their crop to market, and received goods in exchange.<sup>7</sup> In 1747, tobacco warehouses were established at Elk Ridge. These were expanded in 1753, and again in 1763. During that time, more than half the tobacco grown in Anne Arundel County was inspected here. The Elkridge Furnace, established by Caleb Dorsey, added to the lure and prosperity of the town. The Dorseys continued to operate the iron furnace until about the turn of the nineteenth century.<sup>8</sup>

With this in mind, it is clear why the Dorsey family was anxious to settle here, and why Basil Dorsey was interested in, and able to, expand his plantation at Troy. Upon the death of Basil Dorsey in 1763, Troy passed to his eldest son, Thomas. Colonel Dorsey, as he was known, was commander of the Elk Ridge Battalion of the Anne Arundel Militia during the Revolutionary War. In 1775, he served on the Committee of Observation and joined with the Association of Freemen to raise four companies of Minute Men in Anne Arundel County. Colonel Dorsey and his wife, Elizabeth Ridgely Dorsey, did, in fact, reside on this property, which was later referred to as his “dwelling plantation.” It is unclear whether Thomas Dorsey resided in the same house as his father and the other Dorseys of Troy (It is likely that he did, which is why Vincent Baily felt the need to replace the house in the 1820s, having seen it as old and outdated.) Legend has it that the Dorsey home became a rallying point for local patriots. Thomas and Elizabeth Dorsey had only one child before her untimely death. Their son, Daniel Dorsey, would eventually serve in the Militia as a captain. After the death of his wife, Thomas Dorsey married her cousin by the same name, and together they had seven children: Archibald, Theodore, Nicholas, Mary Elizabeth, Juliet, Harriet and Matilda. Thomas Dorsey died in 1790, although his wife continued to reside on the “plantation,” at least for a few more years. Thomas Dorsey’s will bequeathed what remained of “a liberal fortune, which I have lately lost by my indiscretion and ill-judged confidence” to his wife alone. Elizabeth managed to hold on to the property despite the suggestion that she was left in a poor financial state. This can likely be attributed to a mortgage on the property that was held by Samuel Norwood of Baltimore, the husband of their daughter, Mary.<sup>9</sup>

By 1808, Elizabeth Dorsey was living in Baltimore County, having dispersed the Troy property and allowing her sons each a portion of the estate. An 1808 plat of the Dorsey family holdings in this area shows five contiguous parcels of land totaling about 1,616 acres. The parcel that became Troy Farm consisted of 652 acres, along with an adjacent parcel of 91 acres, is indicated for “Doctor Dorsey,” presumably Dr. Archibald Dorsey.<sup>10</sup> Adjacent parcels are marked for Theodore Dorsey and for Nicholas Dorsey. As the eldest son, it was to be expected that Archibald would inherit his father’s

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<sup>7</sup> G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore, Including Howard Co., Maryland; Compiled, Drawn, and Published from Actual Surveys* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1878; reprinted by Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD, 1975), 13. Elkridge Landing was also the closest navigable port to the Carroll family seat at Doughoregan Manor.

<sup>8</sup> By 1810, the Elkridge Iron Furnace was purchased by the Ellicott family and expanded. The current historic buildings were built in the 1830s. The furnace operated until the 1880s.

<sup>9</sup> The mortgage issued May 18, 1793 was recorded in Howard County Land Records, Deed Book J.H.3:200 and referenced in deed xx/570.

<sup>10</sup> Untitled Plat of Dorsey Property, surveyed 1808, by Joseph Cord, Surveyor of Anne Arundel County, Maryland; in the possession of the Howard County Historical Society.

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 14)

“dwelling plantation.” This is, in fact, the only parcel on the plat that indicates the existence of a residence; it is marked by the rather grand configuration of a house. While Dr. Dorsey may have been living in his parents’ former home at the time, it was soon sold to Joseph Clemson and Vincent Baily, both described as farmers of Ann Arundel County.

While the two men may have gone into this venture together in July 1808, Clemson’s foray into farming was short lived. By May of 1811, he was living in Baltimore County and sold his one-half interest in the property to George Baily, a druggist from the City of Baltimore. Shortly after obtaining his portion of the larger Troy tract, George Baily, together with Vincent Baily, purchased from Archibald Dorsey, physician of Anne Arundel County, his 91-acre tract that adjoined Troy. The relationship between George and Vincent Baily is not known, although it appears to have been a close one based upon the amount of money that the former advanced to the latter in his less than successful pursuits into agriculture.

Perhaps as a means of protecting his investors and mortgage holders—including in addition to George Baily, Jesse Mercer of Chester County, PA., Joseph Baily of New Castle County, DE; and John & Mahlon Hopkins of Hopkins Brothers, merchants of Baltimore City— Vincent established “Vincent Baily & Company.” It is interesting to speculate what possible interest this group of individuals shared beyond those appearing to have had family ties. It may be that these men were speculating in the agricultural market and trade between neighboring regions. (Elkridge was also known for its iron works. Established by the Dorsey family, they were among the oldest in the state.) The late eighteenth century was an era of transition for this region. Inspectors and government agencies withdrew from Elkridge, reducing it to a secondary port, and many planters turned to the ports in the ever-expanding city of Baltimore. The navigability and the swift current of the Patapsco River that was so important to the facilitation of trade, was now being harnessed for the milling that would account for much of the county’s later prosperity. By the turn of the century, the tobacco that had been the principal crop of this region during most of the eighteenth century, was supplanted by the production of grain. While the exhaustive nature of tobacco upon the soil would eventually eliminate it as an economically viable agricultural commodity, the transformation to grains was hastened by the enterprising Ellicott family. Ellicott’s Mill— which grew to become Ellicott City, the seat of government for Howard County— encouraged the production, processing, and exportation of flour. The first of their mills began grinding flour in 1774, yet the heyday of this commodity was still to come; “Vincent Baily and Company” may have been a bit premature.

Despite the downturn in shipping trade through Elkridge, transportation through the area remained high, thanks to the confluence of the two major roadways at Waterloo. The Waterloo Inn continued to host trade traffic through the region and was popular as the first stop outside the city of Baltimore. Business was so promising here, in 1811 Rosalie Calvert, wife of George Calvert of Riversdale, felt compelled to invest her family money in the purchase of the Inn and the surrounding property, having previously purchased nearby Spurrier Tavern. The 1811 purchase included a section of the Troy tract as part of the estate of Thomas Dorsey. The purchase of a portion of Troy created a buffer around Waterloo that guaranteed no competing Inns could be built near the crossroads. In fact, legend has it that the name “Waterloo” was given to this crossroads by Rosalie. She was the daughter of Baron von Stier of Belgium, a political refugee who brought his family— and much of his fortune— to Maryland during the period of the Napoleonic Wars; Waterloo was the site of the battle that liberated Belgium from the French emperor’s reign. The tavern was leased to an independent operator, and was said to have done well until

the coming of the railroad in the late 1820s.<sup>11</sup>

With regard to the Troy farm, it appears that Vincent Baily did take possession of the Dorsey house as well as the plantation. Later equity proceedings described this as “the late dwelling & plantation of Thomas Dorsey deceased.”<sup>12</sup> According to the Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Archibald Dorsey was living on the Troy tract, in a house that is clearly not the house currently standing at Troy. The Dorsey homestead was described as “1 story dwelling house 66 by 20 (constructed of) wood, 1 out house (or outbuilding) 22 by 20 (constructed of) stone, 1 ditto (outbuilding) 22 by 20 (constructed of) stone, 1 ditto (outbuilding) 16 by 16 (constructed of) wood, 1 ditto (outbuilding) 18 by 14, 1 ditto (outbuilding) 16 by 12.”<sup>13</sup> Further indication that Vincent Baily constructed the current house is given by testimony recorded in Chancery Court proceedings that resulted in the sale of the property in 1829. Two separate suits were filed by the various parties with an interest in the property. One was brought by a frustrated George Baily. As it was stated in the lawyers complaint before the judge, “your orator (George Baily) having thus acquired an interest in and to the said property advanced to the use thereof divers sums of money from time to time for the purpose of *erecting buildings thereupon* and furnishing stock and farming utensils over and above what your orator was required to furnish as your orator’s share in the said tenancy in common.” In addition to contributing “over and above” that which was required, Vincent Baily had refused not only to make payment, but to answer George Baily’s inquiries into the matter. In pleading for a hearing, George Baily expressed his feelings of anguish over what he now regarded as foolish expenditures, admitting that “All which actings and doings are contrary to equity and good conscience and tend to the manifest wrong and injury.” George Baily requested that “the said Vincent Baily may be made a defendant hereto and may in answer make to all the matters” in a court of equity.<sup>14</sup>

On 18 March 1829, a public auction was held on the premises. While it was reported that several bidders were present, the highest bidder— and thus the purchaser— was George Baily. He paid \$12.60 per acre for the 652 acre farm, amounting to a total sum of \$8215.20. The notice of Chancery Sale that appeared in the *Baltimore Gazette & Daily Advertiser* clearly indicates that the house was built for Vincent Baily and his wife, Susannah,<sup>15</sup> and that he had invested heavily in making improvements in both buildings and in cultivation. The description of the property and improvements was as follows:

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<sup>11</sup> Howard County Land Records, Indenture 1:124 and 5:209, Owen Dorsey and Nicholas Dorsey to Rosalie Calvert, wife of George, dated April 1811, parts “Troy,” “The Isle of Ely,” & “Grecian Seige,” 500 acres. Also interview with Mr. Grover Hines, by author, at the Howard County Historical Society, 2 March 2005.

<sup>12</sup> This reference may, however, be the interpretation of the individual drawing up the deed, as the property is often referred to as the “dwelling plantation,” rather than as here, “the dwelling *and* plantation. See Chancery Court Case #6363, referenced in the chain-of-title.

<sup>13</sup> Federal Direct Tax, of 1798, Patuxent and Huntington Hundreds, Anne Arundel County, Maryland; as cited in Edwards, Mark R., et al. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form for Troy (Troy Hill), June 1976.

<sup>14</sup> Chancery Court of Maryland, Anne Arundel County, case #6363, George Baily vs. Vincent Baily, filed 21 November 1828, Maryland State Archives.

<sup>15</sup> Vincent’s wife, Susannah, is mentioned in Chancery Court Case #9915, MSA (see chain of title).



TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 16)

All that tract or parcel of land, situate, lying, and being in Anne Arundel County, on which Vincent Baily now resides [proceeds to give extensive metes & bounds of the property], to contain six hundred and fifty two acres of land, more or less.

The above property is situated at the Distance of 10 miles from Baltimore and a half a mile from the Washington road; 1/3 of it [the property] is in wood, supposed to be upwards of 10,000 cords, and its distance of 3 miles only from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, offers the means of carrying this to market at the lowest rates the remaining 2/3 [of the property] are capable of the highest state of cultivation, are now in good order, having been lately had a dressing with lime. The tract is well watered with the best springs. The improvements are a commodious two story DWELLING of stone 40 by 36 feet, with a basement a stone BARN 3 stories in height, and 70 by 46 feet, with out-houses. These buildings are new, of good materials; and are of the very best kind for farming and the accommodation of a family. The situation is healthy and agreeable; and the whole farm offers very superior advantages to purchasers.<sup>16</sup>

The purchaser, George Baily, likely never resided at Troy. According to the deed, and to city directories for Baltimore, he lived there continuously from 1802 until 1856. Both a residence and workplace appear for George Baily, who is listed as a druggist. When he first appears in the directory in 1802, the same address is given for both his residence and his business, an indication that he was living over his apothecary shop, then located at #3 Calvert Street. By 1804, he had moved to #254 Baltimore Street, and by 1808, had a separate residence. By the time that George Baily purchases Troy, in 1829, he appears to be quite successful, maintaining both his shop and a separate office for the firm of "George Baily & Company." His residence is listed as #68 Pascault's Row, Lexington Street, Baltimore. The row was designed by architect William Small for Jean Pascault, Marquis de Poleon, as speculative row houses, erected on his estate.<sup>17</sup> Although located in a newly developed and somewhat remote area of the city, the row houses were quite large and fashionably designed. By 1838, George Baily presumably is retired, as he is no longer listed by profession in the city directories. From that time, a listing appears for him at #29 Sharp Street.<sup>18</sup>

George Baily, together with Vincent Baily, had previously purchased from Archibald Dorsey, physician of Ann Arundel County, his 91-acre tract that adjoined Troy. George Baily continued to retain possession of both tracts for another twenty years after he becomes sole owner in 1829, probably keeping it for investment purposes. (It is possible that Vincent and Susannah Baily remained in residence at the "Troy" farm.) It was not until 1849 that he and his wife Elizabeth, still stated in the deed as being from the City of Baltimore, sold both tracts of land to Thomas Canby, also of Baltimore. Interestingly enough, Thomas Canby, who also appears in the Baltimore City directories, is listed as a druggist and as a resident of Sharp Street. Beginning in 1842, listed under "Druggists," is the firm of "Stabler & Canby;" Mr. Canby's residence is listed as #68 Sharp Street.

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<sup>16</sup> "Postponed Chancery Sale," *Baltimore Gazette & Daily Advertiser*, Thursday Evening, February 26, 1829, microfilm, Maryland Historical Society.

<sup>17</sup> National Park Service, Historic American Buildings Survey, No. MD-397, Pascault's Row, W. Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD.

<sup>18</sup> Mitchett's Baltimore Directory (Baltimore: printed & published by R(ichard) J. Matchett, No. 8 Mercer Street, 1799 thru 1860); the *firm* of George Baily & Company is first appears in 1818, on Fayette Street and then Lexington, until 1835, when only the shop address is listed. His residence at that time is listed as #8 Pascault's Row, until his move to Sharp Street, in 1835; microfiche, Maryland Historical Society.

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 17)

Mr. Canby held the Troy property for about five years, from May 1849 until January 1855 when he sold it to Rudolph H. Evans of Howard County. Because Thomas and his wife Esther Canby are named on the deed of sale as residing in Baltimore City, and appear in the Baltimore directories, it is likely that the Troy property was held merely as an investment. Furthermore, an "Agreement to Sell" between future owner Rudolph Evans and Theodore M. Wittberger of West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1853 indicates that Evans was already living on the property by that time, and must have had a similar agreement with Canby. According to the agreement for the sale of "not less than 200 or more than 250 acres," this property was part of "the farm on which the party of the first part (Rudolph H. Evans) now resides, known as Troy Hill Farm."<sup>19</sup> The actual sale was completed in 1856, once Evans obtained legal ownership of the Troy tract. From the time of the Baily family ownership to Evans' purchase of property, Troy Hill Farm constituted two tracts totaling about 743 acres. Over the next couple of years following his purchase in 1855, Evans subdivides Thomas Dorsey's original "dwelling plantation" into a number of smaller farms. Wittberger appears to have never left Philadelphia. He sold the property to James C. Adams in 1858 and he proceeded to build a fine two-story, hipped roof, stuccoed stone Villa-style residence. About the same time, William Rowles built a Gothic Revival style residence on his farm which he had purchased as an out lot of Troy from Thomas Canby. Also adjacent to Troy Farm was the much simpler Tubman house and farm, built on what had been Nicholas Dorsey's share of the home plantation.

When Rudolph Evans contracted to sell that portion known as Troy Hill Farm to Nicholas Christopher about 1860, it had been reduced to 220 acres. It was purchased by Nicholas A. Pfeiffer, of the City of Baltimore, beginning a tenure by the Pfeiffer family that would last nearly fifty years. Nicholas, his wife Mary, and their seven children resided at Troy Hill farm where they grew corn and other grains, and had a orchard, and a vineyard. As previously mentioned, small-scale grain production had supplanted the large tobacco plantations of yesteryear. The Pfeiffer farm was well-placed in terms of transportation. A quick glance at the Hopkins Atlas of 1878 for the First District of Howard County, the area in which Troy Farm is located, reveals much about the life of that community. Although much changed from its heyday in the eighteenth century, the "Waterloo" crossroads of the Washington Turnpike and the Elkrige—Annapolis Road was still the center of community life. Directly south of Troy Farm was the Dorsey Station of the Washington Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. In the opposite direction, to the east at the end of the Washington Turnpike, remained the town of Elkrige Landing, on the Patapsco River, although much reduced in importance since its early days. The port at Elkrige had been supplanted by larger ports in Baltimore, as well as by the railroad.<sup>20</sup> In addition, the Elkrige Furnace had been greatly damaged during the great flood of 1868, although it continued to operate until the early 1880s.

Much of what can be discovered about Troy Farm from this period, unfortunately, comes as a result of the early death of Nicholas Pfeiffer (in 1872), and the equity case that ensued a decade later when most of his children had come of age. Nicholas died intestate, and due to the number of heirs, it was determined by the courts in 1882 that the property should be sold. Deatrick Whalen and William Rowles, owners of the neighboring farms, gave testimony during the court proceedings. Both had known the family for many years and were able to describe the property. According to Mr. Rowles, it was improved

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<sup>19</sup> Howard County Land Records, Deed book 15:273. Note: this is the first appearance in the land records of the name "Troy Hill Farm."

<sup>20</sup> G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore, Including Howard Co., Maryland*, 13. Elkrige Landing was also the closest navigable port to the Carroll family seat at Doughoregan Manor.

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 18)

by "A large stone dwelling house, a large stone barn, a good corn house and other necessary outbuilding." To that, Mr. Whalen added that there was also a tenant house. The notice of sale described the property as follows:

This farm is well watered, and twenty-five acres of it is in woodlands, twenty-five in corn, about thirty in other grains, two-and-a-half acre vineyard, two acres in small fruit, and over one-thousand fruit trees. The rest of the farm is in grass. . . . It is about a mile from Dorsey's Station on the Washington Branch Railroad and one-half mile from the post office. Schools and Church near.

All but one of the children, who ranged in age from twenty-eight to twelve years of age, were living on the farm at the time. Mary Pfeiffer was then fifty-one years old, and the mortgage was, thankfully, paid. The initial auction was held on the premises on 23 June 1883, but there were no takers. Thus, a second auction was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July. At that time, the Pfeiffers bid on the property themselves, purchasing it at \$40.00 per acre plus improvement costs (for a total of \$9,020.00) which was considerably less than the \$70.00 per acre price at which both neighbors estimated its value. The Pfeiffer family continued to reside at Troy Farm until 1913.<sup>21</sup>

As his name appears on the deed of sale, it appears that the youngest male member of the family that had taken possession of Troy Farm, Nicholas Albert Pfeiffer. The farm was purchased in December 1913 by Annie B. Shellenberger. At the time of her death in March 1930, she was residing in Baltimore, and so it is likely that Troy served as a retreat. By 1930, she was widowed and without children. Having died without a will, the property was auctioned and the proceeds divided amongst her many heirs-at-law, her surviving sibling and the children of her deceased siblings. The property was reduced somewhat during Mrs. Shellenberger's tenure to just over 148 acres. It was sold by trustee in 1931. At the time of its sale, it was described as follows:

This property lies north of the Washington Boulevard, about a mile and a half west of ElkrIDGE and about three-quarters of a mile off and north of the Washington Boulevard, on a road used by this property and others in common . . . . Improvements consist of a large two and one-half story, Colonial Stone Mansion, in fine condition inside and out, situated on an eminence, with extensive view. Bank barn 32 ft. by 65 feet, x 16 ft. to square, in fine condition. Tenant house, corn, implement, wagon, and poultry houses and an orchard.<sup>22</sup>

Apparently, the stone barn— still listed in the description of the farm in 1882— was, by this time, no longer standing. It had been replaced by a wood bank barn. Following the sale of Troy Farm, it became the property of John T. & Frances K. Neubauer. It remained in their possession for the next decade or so. According to one source, the Neubauer family resided in Baltimore. Based on what was reported to have been the poor condition of the house at the time that they sold it, it is likely that Troy was still viewed as a retreat, or simply as an investment property.

Retired General Pedro A. de Valle, of the United States Marine Corps, and his wife Katherine purchased

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<sup>21</sup> Howard County, Equity Proceedings, Case #840, Mary Pfeiffer, et. al. vs. John A. Pfeiffer et. al., 1883 (located at the Maryland State Archives, box 71, accession # 08/06/88).

<sup>22</sup>"Trustee's Sale of Valuable Farm," *The Ellicott City Times*, 16 April 1931.

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 19)

Troy Farm in 1942. At that time, the old stone house was supposedly “little more than a shell.”<sup>23</sup> According to Celia Holland, in *Old Homes and Families of Howard County*, the de Valles “restored” the house, “adding several innovations.” Although these changes were not specified, it is likely that the de Valles added the two-story portico that once graced the front entry, and the rear patio. It is also likely that they were responsible for the introduction of the basement dining room and renovation of the kitchen that were accessible from the rear patio. Changes were apparently made to the interior of the house that were in keeping with the Colonial Revival movement, then in its waning days, yet still enjoying some popularity. An arched opening was added between the front hall and the formal parlor to the front of the house, and another between the library and study on the opposing side of the house. Holland describes the interior of the de Valle house as follows:

A center hallway extended from front to back with a stairway reaching from the basement to the third floor. There were 12 rooms, all handsomely furnished, and three baths. The house had eight fireplaces, two with black Italian marble, the others of wood; also of note were random-width pine floors. Calvary cross doors, and an elliptical arch opening into the drawing room to the right of the entrance, with one to match between the library and den to the left. This double room was pine paneled; the drawing room and adjoining sitting room were finely etched with synthetic paneling created by applying narrow strips of molding to the plaster walls, forming rectangles suggesting solid panels beneath the chair rails. Many observers thought them to be the original woodwork, so realistic was the effect. An unusual feature of the house was a handsome dining room located in the basement, with a large bowed window overlooking the rear patio and forest, plus an open fireplace. Adjoining was a spacious kitchen with a fieldstone fireplace, the stonework extending the length of one wall, with the hearth to the right, off center. Many of the original windowpanes remained; others were of considerable age. Beyond the kitchen was an enclosed area used primarily for storage but believed to have been the original kitchen. . . . There were bedrooms on the second and third floors, all large and cheerfully appointed.<sup>24</sup>

This description matches that of Alice Doll's, with the exception of the stairway; Mrs. Doll recalled a separate stairway from the first floor to the basement. The description is valuable, particularly with regard to the molding treatment in that it indicates that what could have been mistaken from the existing photographs as early nineteenth century paneling was actually a faux treatment created by applied molding. It also indicates that the elliptical arches were located only between the hall and the front parlor, and the library and den; again, the lack of the balance that is indicative of the Georgian style in which the house was built, suggested that these archways were added later to expand the standard doorway openings between the rooms.

The de Valles were forced to sell Troy Farm to the State Highway Administration in 1958 in order to facilitate a right-of-way for the construction of Interstate 95. The house was then rented to the Doll family, who lived here for the next decade. Their attempts to purchase the house and surrounding property failed, and they too were forced to vacate, in 1968. In 1970, newspaper articles by local historian Celia M. Holland— such as “Historian Laments Slow Death of Troy Hill” — alerted the public to need for restoration of what she referred to as “the stately old Mansion, once one of Howard County's

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<sup>23</sup> “Troy Hill and Land Bought In Highway Expansion Plan,” *The Ellicott City Times*, 24 November 1958.

<sup>24</sup> Celia Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, 12-13.

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 20)

proudest and more revered landmarks.”<sup>25</sup> Local pressure compelled the state to convey the property to the county, in order to preserve the house as a museum and use the surrounds grounds as ball fields and parkland for neighboring residents. In 1977, Troy was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in the hopes of encouraging a restoration of the house. While the nomination states that it is not likely that the house was built by Thomas Dorsey, it leaves open the possibility of a Dorsey provenance. Unwilling to testify as to the architectural integrity of the structure as it then existed (having been vandalized) the nomination justifies inclusion by stating “Listing of Troy on the National Register of Historic Places would do much to spur the Howard County government into quick and much needed emergency stabilization for the building. It also will spur the above plans [for recreational use of the grounds] into implementation during 1979.”<sup>26</sup> Although the listing was accomplished, plans for stabilization and redevelopment were stalled. Troy was left empty from that time. Over the years, the house was vandalized and finally gutted by fire in 1992.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Troy was erected during the early part of the nineteenth century as a vernacular late-Georgian house, fairly typical of those built by the more prosperous farmers of this region during the first half of the nineteenth century. The house is considered late Georgian because by the 1820s, the lighter handed and more decorative Adamesque and Neo-Classical styles were in vogue, commanding larger, and often, Palladian style windows, sidelights and elliptical arched transoms, and in the case of the neo-classical, dramatic two-story porticoes. As a farm house, it is not surprising that Troy would be much simpler in effect and perhaps slightly outmoded in design. However, it is a fairly substantial and well built house for its day, and included double parlors and refined details such as an elegant stairway and federal period mantels. Erected of local, rubble fieldstone, an attempt was made towards the finer articulation of the Georgian style in the form of quoins and jack-arch lintels. Howard County has numerous examples of stone farm houses built during this period. However, many appear to have been two-story, three-bay-wide structures only a single bay in depth, often with a kitchen wing (usually of frame construction). Examples include Clifton (1818) and the Owings-Myerly House (ca. 1847), in Clarksville; Locust Grove (ca. 1830), in Cooksville; Judge William Matthews House (ca. 1795), and the J.B. Matthews House (1830), in Glenwood. Other examples exist from this period of larger houses, five bays in width. Fewer examples can be found of houses three bays in width and two rooms in depth, such as that found at Troy. Troy is also somewhat unusual in that it has a basement kitchen, rather than a kitchen wing located at the same level as the principal floor of the house. Likewise, the beehive oven was not common to this region of the country, nor to the period in which it was constructed. Ovens of this type generally fell out of favor after the turn of the nineteenth century as stoves were introduced and gained popularity.

A number of fine houses were erected by the Dorsey family during the eighteenth century, some of

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<sup>25</sup> Celia Holland, “Historian Laments Slow Death of Troy Hill,” *Howard County Times*, 22 June 1970, p. 3.

<sup>26</sup> Mark R. Edwards, Nomination Form for Troy, Item 7, p. 3.

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 21)

which still standing, including Caleb Dorsey's "Belmont" home in Elkridge; "Dorsey Hall" in Columbia, likely built by Richard Ridgely and Elizabeth Dorsey Ridgely ca. 1800. Elk Horn Farm or New Year's Gift, begun in 1728 by John Dorsey, no longer stands.

The house was gutted by fire in 1992, thus eliminating both interior and exterior wood finishes, and all evidence of the interior elements. According to its history, the house underwent two major period alterations. The first reportedly occurred during the Victorian era and resulted in Gothic Cottage style renovations such as a cross-gable roof with decorative cast-iron crests at its peak, and a single-story porch with a balcony above running the length of the front facade. Window hoods were also placed over the windows on the south front facade, connected by a projecting fillet. Evidence for this change is found in a period sketch. While there is some question about whether or not the sketch is actually of Troy, mid-twentieth century photographs of the interior of the house indicate that Victorian-era marble mantels were added to the formal parlors on the east side of the house and that a fluted trim with bull's eye corner blocks was added to at least the doorway surrounds.

A second major renovation in the Colonial Revival style occurred sometime after 1942, when Troy was purchased by Pedro and Katherine de Valle. Exterior changes included the addition of a two-story portico supported by squared piers. A frontispiece was added to the principal entry, consisting of pilasters supporting a fully articulated entablature. Large surrounds and exterior shutters were applied to the windows of the front facade. Changes were also made to the interior, such as the addition of an elliptical arch placed between the hall and the living room (for more information about changes, see the Changes and Additions section of Part I.)

2. Condition of fabric: The house was completely gutted by fire in 1992. The exterior stone walls remained standing and in fairly good condition, the remains having been stabilized by and extensive system of interior bracing through the use of heavy timbers and a central steel I-beam. The fireboxes for the former fireplaces are intact as rebuilt, probably in the 1940s. Otherwise, the interior walls have been parged, thus hiding any other clues as to the former interior finish. The windows are all missing and the openings filled with brick.

**B. Description of Exterior:**

1. Overall dimensions: Troy is a two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, gabled roofed house that is banked into the hillside to create a walkout basement. The house is constructed of stone with large interior, brick chimney stacks at the gable ends. The principal entry is to the center of the (south) front facade, and is flanked by windows. There are windows on the second story, corresponding to the first story bays. The house measures approximately 40 by 36 feet.

2. Foundations: The foundations are of rubble stone.

3. Walls: Troy is constructed of uncut stone using fairly large stones in a random pattern yet still incorporating decorative quoins and window lintels. The quoining consists of an alternating pattern of a large rectangular stone followed by two smaller rectangular stones laid on end. The lintels that appear on the first story of all elevations also are a vernacular attempt at creating a jack arch with keystone. The stone is a local fieldstone and has an red-orange hue suggesting a

high iron content. The stones used for the south front facade are significantly larger than those used for the remaining three elevations.

4. Structural systems, framing: The house is of load-bearing stone walls that are currently being supported with heavy timber and a central steel I-beam.

5. Porches, stoops: A stone terrace has been added along the (south) front facade, with a few of the steps to the doorway still intact. This is all that remains of the Colonial Revival style, two-story portico (reminiscent of Washington's Mount Vernon) that appeared on the house mid-century. This portico was supported by four squared columns (with a pilaster at each end against the facade of the house). There is a similar but larger terraced surface to the (north) rear of the house; there is no evidence of an accompanying porch.

According to an illustration of the house during the later part of the nineteenth century, a decorative Gothic Revival style porch ran the length of the house at that time. It was supported by chamfered posts with scroll brackets, and had a cut-out balustrade, including an upper level balustrade. Whether or not this particular depiction is accurate, shadowing on the facade does suggest the former existence of a single story porch that ran the length of the facade.

It is likely, however, that the house originally had an entry portico, perhaps similar in nature to the one erected by the de Valles, yet not as deep nor as long.

6. Chimneys: There are two large interior brick chimneys stacks at end gable end, flanking the roof ridge. The brick is laid in common bond and forms a corbeled cap. The chimney on the (east) side elevation towards the front is smaller than the other three, suggesting that it has been rebuilt.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The doors and door surrounds were all lost in the fire and subsequent stabilization, and the doorways have been filled in with brick. The principal entryway is to the center of the front facade. It is a fairly narrow entryway and is without sidelights. A photograph from the 1960s indicates that the door was eight panel (six same-sized panels above the lock rail, and two larger panels below) and that there was a transom above the door. A large stone forms a flat lintel above the doorway and closer stones were used around the sides of the opening. A wood frontispiece likely graced the doorway at one time. The area above this doorway and the window above has been patched suggesting either a former second-story doorway or past structural failure (perhaps caused by the removal of the iron grill that once surrounded the window). Doorways also appear to the (right) side elevation and to the rear. The former doorway is located at the basement level (a temporary door provides the only current access into the building). A partial wall around this doorway is all that remains of a former entry enclosure that acted as a "mud room," prior to entering the basement kitchen.<sup>27</sup> Patching

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<sup>27</sup> Interview with former resident of Troy, Alice Doll, by author, at her home in Sykesville, Maryland, 13 December 2004.

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 23)

below the first-story window towards the front likewise suggests a former doorway or structural failure. It is possible that if a doorway once existed here, it was filled in so that the current basement window could be added below it without creating structural instability in the wall, or visa versa. The third entry is located to the center of the rear facade.

b. Windows and shutters: As with the doorways, the windows were all destroyed in the fire and the openings have been filled in with brick. However, a National Register nomination prepared prior to the fire indicates that the windows were six-over-six-light sash. In the front facade, there is a window to either side of the central entry and in all three bays of the second story. The first story window openings are slightly larger than those in the second story and are graced by decorative, jack-arched lintels. Having been fashioned out of rubble stone, each lintel is slightly different, but basically constructed of two stones with keystone. The lintels in the second story are formed by a narrow row of stone located just under the former roof eave.

In the side elevations, there are two windows per elevation in both stories and at the basement level. The windows are located towards the outer ends of the walls in order to accommodate the two chimneys, and there is a smaller window in the gable end, between the chimneys. Again, there are decorative lintels in the first floor only. Due to the sloping grade at the side elevations, the basement windows are larger toward the rear. The windows in the east side elevation differ only in the gable end; here there is a round arched window in the gable end.

The rear elevation is three bays across, again with decorative lintels in the first story and a smaller row of stones in the second story. In the basement level, larger rectangular bays flanking the central entry are likely to be part of a later remodeling of the house. The opening to the right is slightly lower and larger and has an octagonal base indicting the former bay window, evidenced in pictures of the house taken in the 1960s.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The original roof was lost in the fire, but was of the same side-gabled configuration as the current reconstruction. The structural system of the roof prior to the fire was described as follows: "Small trees were used as studs and minor framing members in the interior walls. The roof rafters, probably a replacement of the second half of the nineteenth century, are circular-saw cut and are butt-jointed with mortise and tenon joints and secured with treenails. Incised Roman numerals are present on both roof rafters and the plates and girts in the basement, and indicate the use of a traditional, prefabricated construction technique."<sup>28</sup>

b. Cornice, eaves: A somewhat crude temporary roof has been constructed and is

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<sup>28</sup> Mark R. Edwards, et al. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form for Troy (Troy Hill)," June 1976, item 7, continuation sheet 1.



without any cornice or eaves. Prior to the fire, there was a simple box cornice with a return in the gable end.

c. Dormers: Although there are no dormers currently, one was added to the center of the rear slope of the roof during the twentieth century.

### C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The house has been completely destroyed by fire, however, existing documentation, oral interviews, and the placement of fireboxes suggest a standard double-pile Georgian plan consisting of a center hall with flanking rooms. Entrance was into a central stair hall, where a stairway ran along the east wall and ascended two stories to the third floor. An elliptical archway provided access to a suite of two rooms, located on the east side of the house. A doorway provided access to the adjoining rooms on the west side, which were adjoined by an arched opening similar to that between the stair hall and parlors. During the twentieth century, the rooms on the east side were the more formal parlor rooms, with the den and library occupying the rooms on the west. A similar plan was used for the bed chambers above. The smaller third floor or half-story was finished as two additional bed chambers. In the basement, the front rooms had been established for use as the food preparation and consumption, with the kitchen to the east, and dining room to the west. These two rooms open to the rear terraced area. The two basement rooms behind these rooms, to the south, were unfinished utility rooms. The utility room behind the kitchen included a subterranean root cellar. The following descriptions are based upon evidence of former conditions, supplied principally by photographs taken in the 1960s and 1990s. The house underwent major renovations in the 1940s, and without an examination of the existing interior fabric, the original interior must be based partially on speculation.

2. Stairways: There was a single flight, open run stairway along the east side of the stair hall that provided access between the formal rooms on the main level and the chambers on the second and third stories. The stairway had a rounded, tapering newel post that rested on a high plinth, and delicately tapering balusters. A separate enclosed stairway led to the basement level of the house.

3. Flooring: Random width wood flooring was used throughout the first, second, and third stories of the house. In the basement, wood flooring had been applied in the dining room, held by battens onto the concrete sub-flooring. Linoleum tile was used in the basement-level kitchen.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls were formerly of lath and plaster, with molding applied in the formal first floor rooms and the basement dining room to resemble paneled walls. The latter treatment was likely done as part of the Colonial Revival-era renovations.

#### 5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Elliptical arch openings provided access from the front hall into the southeast parlor, and between the northeast and northwest rooms on the opposite side

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 25)

of the central hall.<sup>29</sup> The arch between the hall and formal parlor was more finely articulated, including pilasters with a capital molding from which the arch itself sprung forth. The reveals were paneled and the arch included a keystone. According to the National Register nomination, prior to the fire, architrave trim surrounded the doorways, although some of the photographs indicate doorways with fluted trim and bull eye corner blocks.<sup>30</sup> There was a swinging door between the kitchen and dining room, located in the basement.

b. Windows: Prior to the fire, architrave trim likewise was found around the windows as were corner blocks at the top and bottom. Below the windows was located a dado comprised of three rectangular panels.

6. Decorative features and trim: According to the National Register nomination, there was a fire at Troy in the 1830s as well as the 1990s. The former fire destroyed the original interior paneling, and late Federal period paneling with “finely detailed carving and decoration” was installed in its place. However, no source is given for this, and later descriptions of the faux paneling sheds doubt about the accuracy of this statement. The parlor suite had molding applied to the walls to suggest recessed paneled walls, separated by a chair rail, and included molding framing in the overmantel area. Panel-door cabinets appeared to inside wall of the fireplace in all four first floor rooms. These cabinets, with their eight panel doors, were likely original features. Despite the paneling and cabinet along the west, fireplace wall, the decorative paneled wall treatment in the southwest library room were heavier and unpainted, and likely were installed at a later date, along with the elliptical arch between the rooms. The arch opening was cased in plain wood, with the arch springing from a simply molded capital. It appears that the treatment along this wall was merely wide framing, with a rail at a higher placement. Built-in bookcases were added to the south front wall of the southwest library room. The bed chambers in the second story were said to have been greatly altered by a former owner sometime after 1942, and only a small amount of the original decorative paneling remained intact prior to the fire.<sup>31</sup> Simpler built-in china cabinets appeared in the dining room in the basement. The dining room also included a dentil cornice and paneled reveals in the window openings, as well as the faux paneled wall treatment seen in the first floor rooms.

7. Fireplaces: Troy included a fireplace in nearly every room of the house. The fireboxes are all that remain of the former interior of the house. From the current state, and from photographs taken in the 1960s, it appears that they were rebuilt, perhaps as part of the 1940s renovation. The former resident does not recall fireplaces in the second floor bedrooms, although the fireboxes are clearly in evidence. It is likely that they were covered over and not in use by that time. The mantels in the adjoining parlors to the southeast and northeast, were of marble (or marbleized slate); simple pilasters supported a low pointed-arched section, with an extended mantel shelf. In the library and den to the southwest and northwest were larger and more traditional Federal-style

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<sup>29</sup> Alice Doll, interview.

<sup>30</sup> Edwards, Nomination for Troy.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., item 7, continuation sheet 1.

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 26)

wood mantels. Fluted pilasters framed the opening, with a five-part mantel shelf that included smaller molded panels above the pilasters and a larger panel to the center. These were likely the original mantels (although it is possible that they are Colonial Revival additions). The parlor mantels were likely part of changes made to the house during the Victorian era.

There was a large stone fireplace in the basement kitchen. This rubble stone fireplace appears to have run the length of the wall. It was of average height (not a “walk-in fireplace of earlier periods) and had a plain plank mantel shelf. The actual fireplace opening was to one end. Originally, there was a beehive oven associated with this fireplace; only archeological evidence remains of the base, although patching on the wall indicates its former configuration.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating: It is likely with fireplaces in every room of the house, that this was the principal heat source for the house originally. By the mid-century, a central steam heating system had been added, with radiators appearing in all the rooms.

c. Plumbing: Exposed water pipes are visible in photographs of the interior of the house taken in the 1960s.<sup>32</sup> Roughly 250' from the house is a circular, brick lined well, now capped with concrete.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design: A long driveway ascends the steep rise from the Washington Turnpike up to Troy. By at least the 1940s, the property included a circular drive to the front of the house. A wide grassy path or roadway made a circuit around the house and through the fields for horseback riding or leisurely walks. The house is situated at a rise, which falls off fairly steeply to the north and northwest. To accommodate this topography, the hillside was terraced. The residents during the period from 1958 to 1968 planted a vegetable garden on the terraces. To the bottom of the hill was an apple orchard, which was all that remained at that time of its former use as Troy Hill Farm.

2. Outbuildings: According to the Federal Direct Tax of 1798, the earliest known description of the improvement to the property, it included a large frame house and several outbuildings. There were two stone outbuildings, each measuring 22 by 20 feet, and three wood outbuildings one measuring 16 by 16, another 18 x 14, and finally one 16 by 12. It is unclear whether any of these structures survived into the Baily family era, after 1808. Certainly the house did not. The description of the property that appears in the 1829 advertisement for its sale indicates that the buildings are all new. It mentioned that a number of outbuildings are present, but only specifically mentions the house and a large stone barn measuring 70 by 46 feet, that is no longer extant. A brief description in 1882 indicates that the stone house and stone barn are still standing. Also mentioned are a corn house, and “other necessary outbuildings,” as well as a small tenant house. By the time the property was sold in 1913, the stone barn is gone and a smaller frame bank barn, measuring 32 by 65 feet appears. Also listed in 1913 are the tenant house and corn house, as

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<sup>32</sup> In the possession of Mrs. Alice Doll.

well as implement, wagon, and poultry houses. According to a former resident, there was a small, square brick building located just to the southwest of the house, now gone. Although she was told that it was formerly a powder magazine, it is more likely that it was used as a smoke house, shed, or perhaps a privy. The barn and most of the other outbuildings are now gone. However, much of the stone foundation of a former bank barn (with the embankment located to the western side of the barn) remain in the vicinity of the current outbuildings. These include a cinder block-constructed garage and a shed building.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### A. Architectural drawings & plats:

Map of First District of Howard County (p. 10-11), Hopkins, G.M., *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore Including Howard Co., Maryland*. Philadelphia: Hopkins Publishing, 1878.

Untitled Plat of Dorsey Property, surveyed 1808, by Joseph Cord, Surveyor of Anne Arundel County, Maryland; in the possession of the Howard County Historical Society.

#### B. Early views:

Mrs. Alice Doll Collection; Polaroid photographs in the possession of the former owner who resided in the house from 1958 through 1968; Pen & Ink sketch of house believed to be Troy, formerly owned by a Ms. Dorsey, now the property of Mrs. Doll.

Photographs in the possession of Alice Doll and of the Howard County Office of Parks and Recreation, dating mostly from the 1960s and 1990s.

#### C. Interviews:

Interview with former resident, Mrs. Alice Doll, with author, 13 December 2004, at Doll home in Sykesville, Maryland.

Interview with Mr. Bill Duffy, with author, 12 December 2004, with regard to Dorsey family history, via telephone from his home in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Interview with Grover Hines, local historian, with author, 2 March 2005, at the Howard County Historical Society, Elliott City, Maryland.

#### D. Bibliography:

##### **1. Primary Sources:**

Note that sources available at the Maryland State Archives will be indicated by the abbreviation MSA.

Anne Arundel County Land Records, (various deeds, indentures, and mortgages as cited in text); MSA.

*Baltimore Gazette & Daily Advertiser*, "Trustee's Sale," Thursday Evening, February 26, 1829.

Federal Direct Tax, 1798; MSA.

Howard County Land Records, (various deeds, indentures, and mortgages as cited in text) available at Howard County Land Records office, Columbia, Maryland.

Howard County Equity Proceedings, File #3140, James Clark, Atty., plaintiff, & Chester A. & Alvin Densmore, defendants (heirs of Annie Shellenberger); 1930.

Howard County Tax Assessment Records, First Election District, 1852-1866, 1876-1896, MSA.

Ibid., Case #840 Pfeiffer vs. Pfeiffer, 1882; MSA, Accession #08/06/88, MSA # T409-13, Location #1/70/6/29.

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Ibid., Case #6363; George Baily, complainant and Vincent Baily, defendant, Anne Arundel County, 1828; MSA.

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## **2. Secondary Sources:**

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Holland, Celia. *Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland*. Privately printed, 1987.

Ibid., “Historian Laments Slow Death of Troy Hill,” *Howard County Times*, 22 June 1970.

Ibid., “Weather, Vandals Ravage Beauty of Troy Hill,” *Ellicott City Times*, 25 June 1970.

Hopkins, G.M., *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore Including Howard Co., Maryland*. Philadelphia: Hopkins Publishing, 1878.

Howard County Historical Society, “Troy Hill,” File #HO44NR; including brief unpublished history entitled, “Troy Hill,” (date and author unknown).

National Register of Historic Places, nomination forms for: Elkridge Furnace Complex, Dorsey Hall, Montrose, Waverly, and Whitehall.

Thompson, Cleora Barnes, Maryland State Historic Sites Survey forms for: Clifton and Owings-Myerly

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 29)

House, in Clarksville; Locust Grove, in Cooksville, Judge Wm. Matthews and J.B. Mathews houses, in Glenwood; Tubman House, Inglehart House, Wm. Rawles House, and Marshalllee (Lyndwood) in Dorsey/ Elkridge ; Granite Hall, in Columbia

“Troy Hill and Land Bought In Highway Expansion Plan,” *The Ellicott City Times*, 24 November 1958.

“Trustees Sale of Valuable Farm; Formerly Occupied and Owned by Annie B. Shellenberger, Deceased,” *Ellicott City Times*, 16 April 1931.

Warfield, J.D. *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland; A Genealogical & Biographical Review of Wills, Deeds, Church Records*. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1967.

E. Figure Pages:

\*Note: Copies of these are available in the field notes for reference. Due to copyright restrictions, these images may not appear on-line.

Fig. #1: Sketch of Troy ca. 1880 (undated), in the possession of former resident, Mrs. Alice Doll, Sykesville, Maryland.

Fig. #2: Map of First District of Howard County (p. 10-11), Hopkins, G.M., *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore Including Howard Co., Maryland*. Philadelphia: Hopkins Publishing, 1878.

The following images are courtesy of either the Howard County Parks & Recreation (HCPR), or are images are of snap-shots taken during the Doll Family tenure at Troy Hill, ca. 1958-1968, in the possession of Mrs. Alice Doll, Sykesville, Maryland (AD):

Fig. #3: Perspective View of Front of Troy, ca. 1950, looking northeast; Note the front portico (HCPR).

Fig. #4: Perspective View of Front of Troy, ca. 1960, looking north-northwest (AD)

Fig. #5: View of north rear elevation of Troy, looking east (AD).

Fig. #6: View of north rear elevation of Troy, looking west (AD).

Fig. #7 View of front hall to show doorway and arched opening, looking south-southwest (HCPR).

Fig. #8: View of stair and hallway from second story, looking north (HCPR).

Fig. #9: View of mantel, paneling, and built-in bookcases in southwest “library” room (HCPR).

Fig. #10: View of mantel in southwest “library” room (AD).

Fig. #11: View from southwest “library” room looking into northwest “den” through the archway; also note door to built-in cabinet and paneling (AD).

TROY (Troy Hill Farm)  
HABS No. MD-1210 (page 30)

Fig. #12: View of mantel and detailing in southeast room or front parlor (HCPR).

Fig. #13: View of fireplace, paneling, and detailing in basement dining room, looking southwest (HCPR).

Fig. #14: View of fireplace, paneling, bay window in basement dining room, looking northwest (HCPR).

Fig. #15: View of mantel and fireplace surround in basement kitchen, looking east (HCPR).

#### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of Troy was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey / Historic American Engineering Record / Historic American Landscapes Survey (HABS/HAER/ HALS) division of the National Park Service (NPS), John A. Burns, Acting Chief. The project was sponsored by the Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC), NPS, Tom McGrath, Superintendent; and by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, Gary J. Arthur, Director. Project planning was coordinated by Paul Dolinsky, Chief, HABS; and by Fritz Rushlow, Exhibits Specialist, HPTC. The field work was undertaken and the measured drawings were produced by HABS architects Paul A. Davidson and Mark Schara. The historical report was written by HABS historian Catherine C. Lavoie.